

**51-PPS-RNR
RETYPE FROM ORIGINAL**

DIRECTIVES FROM DR. ROSSEN

403 Physicians & Surgeons Bldg.
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota
February 5, 1951

Dear Doctor:

We are organizing an over-all pediatric program for state institutions caring for patients under 16 years of age. Recently a center for emotionally disturbed children was established at Hastings State Hospital and a ruling made that, under no condition, was a child under 16 years of age to be housed with adult patients. Patients under 16 years of age who were in institutions without pediatric facilities were transferred to Hastings State Hospital and are now housed in Cottage 3.

In addition to this center, Cottage 4 at Hastings has been opened as a center for the mentally retarded hyperactive children who are already committed and are on the waiting list for Faribault or Cambridge. These children are admitted in groups of approximately 30 and are kept for a minimum of three months at a time, unless the staff feels that some child should be kept longer. The system is operated on a rotation basis so that a child may have one or more periods of admission before permanent placement is secured. This plan is designed primarily to relieve emotional tension in the home, which in some cases has become severe because of our inability to find institutional space for those children. In addition, each child is given a complete work-up and any treatment deemed advisable while in the institution at Hastings and may be treated on an out-patient basis between admissions.

In fairly near future we are also planning to open a center for children with neurological conditions in Cottage 5 at Hastings. Children in our institutions who also have tuberculosis will be cared for in a separate unit at the tuberculosis center at Anoka.

We, therefore, now have three main pediatric groups in our state hospitals-the feeble-minded at Faribault, those with convulsive disorders at Cambridge, and the emotionally disturbed or psychotic at Hastings. We are attempting to coordinate these centers with a basic pediatric program, designed to meet the needs and problems of each of the three institutions, handling children. A central pediatric advisory committee is to be established, with medical representatives from each of these institutions, plus representatives from the nursing, friend, dieticians, and other interested or related groups. The committee will be under the general direction of a full time pediatrician from the central office. We would appreciate your cooperation in the selection of this committee. Please let us know which of your medical staff you feel should serve on this and also any other party you think should be included.

At the first meeting of the advisory committee the following policies, most of which you have already instituted, will be considered.

1. That a patient under 16 years of age may not be housed in an adult ward.
2. That each child must receive a diet suitable for a child his age and in his physical condition.
3. That practical clothing must be available for each child suitable for a child his age.
4. That recreation which is practical for these children, considering age and their mental and physical disability, be provided.
5. That standard pediatric drugs be available for adequate prophylaxis and treatment.
6. That attendants and nurses on children's wards be thoroughly instructed in proper pediatric care.

Very truly yours,

Ralph Rossen, M. D.
Commissioner of Mental Health

by

Frances Barnes, M. D.
In charge of Pediatrics

RR:sg

cc: Dr. Engberg
Dr. Gully
Dr. Brown
Governor Youngdahl
Mr. Jackson

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